

Appl. No. 09/667,434
Reply to Office action of May 17, 2005
Atty. Docket No. 49028195

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Marc Etienne BONNEVILLE

Serial No: 09/667,434

Art Unit: 2644

Filed: September 22, 2000

Examiner: Michalski; Justin I.

Subject: Transmission of Power and/or Signalling Between an Audio Distribution Unit and a Plurality of Remote Audio Transducers

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, USA

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION BY TELEPHONE

This is a response to the office action mailed May 17, 2005.

In the office action, claims 25-29, 33-37, 56-64, 66 and 67 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4-24, 30-32, 38-55 and 65 were allowed, claim 1 was rejected and claims 2 and 3 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim. It was indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim.

Claims 2 and 3 have not been rewritten because, with respect, the rejection of base claim 1 is without merit.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the QED disclosure. It is submitted, however, that the examiner erred when reading the present claim 1 onto the QED disclosure. Claim 1 requires "means (22A...22D,44,76,80-96) for supplying *audio signals* to the audio transducers (14A(L),14A(R)) and transferring *at least one of power and data signals* between said audio distribution unit (10) and said remote unit (34A), *all by way of the four conductors*. The examiner stated that this clause was met by QED's "Data Pair on conductors 1 and 2 and audio, i.e., power, on 3 and 5".

With respect, this is unacceptable for several reasons. One cannot equate the audio signals with the power signals; they are not the same. Moreover, the QED system uses a *six* conductor cable which comprises three twisted pairs. As explained on page B15 of the QED document, one twisted pair is for D.C. data transmission, and the other two twisted pairs are for the left and right channels. As can be seen from page B1, the LEFT channel twisted pair comprises conductors 3 and 4 and the RIGHT channel twisted pair comprises the conductors 5 and 6. In practice, conductors 3 and 4 would be connected to the terminals of the LEFT speaker and conductors 5 and 6 would be connected to the terminals of the RIGHT speaker. One could simply connect conductors 3 and 5 and leave conductors 4 and 6 disconnected because there would be no return path for the audio signals.

The QED system must use all *six* conductors to transmit the LEFT and RIGHT audio signals and the D.C. data signal. It simply will not work if only four of those conductors are used. In

contrast, embodiments of the present invention, as defined in claim 1, need only four conductors to transmit the LEFT and RIGHT audio signals and either or both of the power and data signals.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the QED disclosure and the applicant respectfully requests early and favourable reconsideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted

DRAFT

Date: 9 August 2005

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